

**In the Abstract:**

On new page 11 following the claims, please insert the following abstract:

**Abstract**

A process for reducing to metallic form metal oxides includes cathodically electrolysing the oxide in the presence of a molten salt electrolyte whilst controlling the potential of the cathode so as to favour oxygen ionisation over deposition of metal from the cations present in the molten salt, and an apparatus for performing the said process. The apparatus is free from bolted or screwed fittings and includes an electrochemical cell that includes a body or housing, a cathode container, and a cathode connector, wherein the body or housing is maintained as the cathode.